

## **N-02 Continuing Education Requirements for Nursing Staff**

Purpose: To state requirements for renewal of nursing certificates and licenses for the Alaska Nurse Aide Registry and the Alaska Board of Nursing.

Nursing staff must maintain a current certificate or license to work in the Alaska Pioneer Homes. It is the responsibility of the nursing staff to fulfill educational and financial requirements for renewal.

Continuing education is education that gives academic credit, continuing education units (CEUs), or contact hours (CHs) beyond the basic preparation in nursing programs.

Job classification, credential, cost, continuing education required, renewal date:

- CNA, 2-year certificate, \$180, 24 CH, 3/31/even years.
- LPN, 2-year license, \$215, 30 hours, 9/30/even years.
- RN, 2-year license, \$215, 30 hours, 11/30/even years.
- ANP, 2-year license, \$290, 30 hours, 11/30/even years.

Certificate and license cost and continuing education are for 2 years. Alaska law requires each licensed profession to cover its own costs. Continuing education is paid by the State employee unless the class is offered by the State.

Licensed nurses (RNs and LPNs) renew their license every 2 years and must verify that 2 of these 3 have been completed:

1. Continuing education, 30 hours:
  - at least 20 are accredited continuing education units (CEUs), and
  - up to 10 may be contact hours (CHs) that are not accredited;
2. Professional activities, 30 hours; or
3. Nursing employment, 320 hours of practice during the 2-year licensing period.

Continuing education credit for renewal purposes is used only once during the 2-year period, and a class or other means cannot be repeated and counted twice.

CEUs (continuing education units):

CEUs are given for continuing education programs sponsored or approved by:

- American Nurses Association;
- American Medical Association;
- Alaska Medical Association; and
- Nurse practitioner certifying body.

CHs (contact hours):

1. CH is a minimum of 60 minutes of organized instruction.
2. One semester academic credit equals 15 CHs.

3. CHs are given for hours attending in-service *nursing* education given by a licensed health care facility. CHs must be specific to *nursing* to be counted toward re-licensure.
4. CH subject areas:
  - Nursing practice and health care problems;
  - Biological, physical, or behavioral sciences;
  - Legal or ethical aspects of health care; and
  - Management or administration of health care personnel and resident care.
5. CHs from accredited learning systems such as educational television, audio or video cassettes, the Internet, printed media, or accredited independent study programs are accepted as continuing education if approved by a national certifying body.
6. CPR or BLS courses are *not accepted* as continuing education CHs.

#### Professional activities:

Hours of professional activity are earned in professional health organizations, as an author of a health book or publication, developing and presenting a nursing paper, nursing research, and activities approved by the board of nursing. (See 12 AAC 44.620 for details.)

#### Alternatives for continuing education requirements:

1. Completion of a nursing refresher course;
2. Attaining or working toward a degree or certification in nursing; or
3. Completing the Licensing Examination.  
Continuing education is required for new licenses received during the first year of renewal; continuing education is not required for licenses received during the second year of renewal. (12 AAC 44.600-660)
4. Completing the CNA Certification.  
12 contact hours are required for new certifications received during the first year of renewal; completion of contact hours is not required for new certifications received during the second year of renewal. (12 AAC 44.825)

A licensee selected for audit submits the following to verify completion of continuing education:

1. Name of the licensee;
2. Amount of continuing education credit awarded;
3. Description of the continuing education activity;
4. Dates of participation or completion; and
5. Name, address and signature of instructor, sponsor, or other verifier. (12 AAC 02.960)

N-02 Approved: 1/27/2012